## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1.        (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment

having an alert function, comprising:

storing a last-communication time related to a name of a person in a phonebook

database in said mobile telephone equipment;

calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

determining whether said amount of time that has elapsed since said last-

communication time exceeds a predetermined time interval; and

alerting when it is determined that the predetermined time interval is exceeded by

~~exceeds~~ said amount of time since the last-communication time.


Claims 2-3.     (Canceled).


Claim 4.        (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein

said last-communication time is initially set to a time when data related to the person is

registered into the phonebook database.


Claim 5.        (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein

said last-communication time is updated each time communication with the person is

terminated.


Claim 6.        (Original) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein the

predetermined time interval is arbitrarily determined depending on a user's instruction.

Claim 7.        (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 1, wherein

the alerting is performed by driving <u>at least</u> one of a speaker, a vibrator, and a display.

Claim 8.        (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment

having an alert function, comprising:

storing a last-communication time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons

in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment;

dividing the plurality of persons into <u>at least one group</u> ~~a plurality of groups~~;

determining a before-alert time interval for each of the <u>at least one group</u> ~~groups~~,

wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication with <u>a</u>

~~the~~ person <u>in a group</u> is not made before alerting;

calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

determining whether the before-alert time interval <u>is exceeded by</u> ~~exceeds~~ said amount

of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time; and

alerting when it is determined that the before-alert time interval <u>is exceeded by</u>

~~exceeds~~ said amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time.

Claim 9.        (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 8, wherein

the last-communication time is initially set to a time when data related to the person is

registered into the phonebook database.

Claim 10.       (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 8, wherein

the last-communication time is updated each time a communication with the person is

terminated.

Claim 11.        (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment

having an alert function, comprising:

storing a last-communication time related to a name of a person in a phonebook

database in said mobile telephone equipment;

storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited;

calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

determining whether a predetermined time interval is exceeded by ~~exceeds~~ said

amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time;

alerting when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is

determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed; and

inhibiting an alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period even

if it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed.

Claim 12.        (Canceled).

Claim 13.        (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 11, wherein

the alerting is performed by driving at least one of a speaker, a vibrator, and a display.

Claim 14.        (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 13, wherein~

inhibiting comprises an audible alert by the speaker and/or the vibrator is inhibited and a

silent alert on the display is permitted.

Claim 15.        (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 1, further

comprising:

 storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and

 displaying the alert list in <u>a</u> form of a menu on a display so that a desired one <u>can be</u> is

selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.


Claim 16.        (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 8, further

comprising:

 storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and

 displaying the alert list in <u>a</u> form of a menu on a display so that a desired one <u>can be</u> is

selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.


Claim 17.        (Currently amended) The alert control method according to claim 11, further

comprising:

 storing an alert list containing persons targeted for alert; and

 displaying the alert list in <u>a</u> form of a menu on a display so that a desired one <u>can be</u> is

selected from the alert list to make a call to the desired one.


Claim 18.        (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function,

<u>said apparatus</u> comprising:

 a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-

communication time related to a name of a person; and

 a controller for determining, based on <u>a</u> the <u>current</u> time, whether a predetermined

time interval is exceeded by ~~exceeds~~ an amount of time since said last-communication time

and starting the alert function when it is determined that the predetermined time interval is

exceeded by ~~exceeds~~ said amount of time since said last-communication time.


Claim 19.        (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function,

comprising:

        a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-

communication time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons, wherein the plurality

of persons is divided into at least one group ~~a plurality of groups~~; and

        a controller for determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups,

wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication with a

~~the~~ person in a group is not made before alerting, determining whether the before-alert time

interval is exceeded by ~~exceeds~~ an amount of time since the last-communication time, and

starting the alert function when it is determined that the before-alert time interval is exceeded

by ~~exceeds~~ said amount of time since the last-communication time.


Claim 20.        (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function,

comprising:

        a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-

communication time related to a name of a person;

        an alert-inhibition timetable storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert

is inhibited; and

        a controller for determining, based on a ~~the~~ time, whether a predetermined time

interval is exceeded by ~~exceeds~~ an amount of time since said last-communication time,

starting the alert function when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined time interval has elapsed since said last-communication time, and

inhibiting an alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period, even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval is exceeded by ~~exceeds~~ said amount of time since said last-communication time.

Claim 21.      (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment having an alert function, comprising:

storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in a phonebook database in said mobile telephone equipment in response to a termination of a call to the person;

calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since said termination of said call based upon said stored time data;

determining whether said amount of time exceeds a predetermined time interval; and

alerting when it is determined that the predetermined time interval is exceeded by ~~exceeds~~ said amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person.

Claim 22.      (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 21, wherein the time is a last-communication time at which communication with the person was made last.

Claim 23.      (Currently amended) An alert control method in a mobile telephone equipment

having an alert function, comprising:

storing time data related to a name of a person to communicate with in a phonebook

database in said mobile telephone equipment;

storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert is inhibited;

calculating an amount of time that has elapsed since communicating with said person

based upon said stored time data;

determining whether a predetermined time interval is exceeded by exceeds the amount

of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person;

alerting when a current time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is

determined that the predetermined time interval is exceeded by exceeds the amount of time

that has elapsed without communicating with the person; and

inhibiting an alert when the current time falls into the alert-inhibition time period,

even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval is exceeded by exceeds the

amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person.

Claim 24.      (Previously presented) The alert control method according to claim 23,

wherein the time data is a last-communication time at which communication with the person

was made last.

Claim 25.      (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function,

comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-

communication time ~~data~~ related to a name of a person to communicate with in response to termination of a call to the person; and

a controller for <u>calculating an amount of time since said last communication time,</u> determining, based on the time data, whether a predetermined time interval <u>is exceeded by</u> said ~~exceeds an~~ amount of time, ~~that has elapsed without communicating with the person~~ ~~based upon said stored time data~~ and starting <u>an</u> ~~the~~ alert function when it is determined that the predetermined time interval <u>is exceeded by</u> ~~exceeds~~ the amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the person.


Claim 26.      (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function, comprising:

a phonebook database in <u>said</u> mobile telephone apparatus for storing a last-communication talk time related to a name of each of a plurality of persons to communicate with in response to <u>a</u> termination of a call to the person, wherein the plurality of persons is divided into <u>at least one group</u> ~~a plurality of groups~~; and

a controller for determining a before-alert time interval for each of the groups, wherein the before-alert time interval is a time interval during which communication with <u>a</u> ~~the~~ person <u>in a group</u> is not made before alerting, determining whether the before-alert time interval <u>is exceeded by</u> ~~exceeds~~ an amount of time since the last-communication time based upon said last-communication talk time, and starting the alert function when it is determined that the before-alert time interval <u>is exceeded by</u> ~~exceeds~~ the amount of time since the last-communication time.

Claim 27.       (Currently amended) A mobile telephone apparatus having an alert function,

comprising:

a phonebook database in said mobile telephone apparatus for storing time data related

to a name of a person to communicate with in response to a termination of a call to the

person;

an alert-inhibition timetable storing an alert-inhibition time period during which alert

is inhibited; and

a controller for determining, based on the time data, whether a predetermined time

interval is exceeded by exceeds an amount of time that has elapsed without communicating

with the person based upon said stored time data, starting the alert function when a current

time falls out of the alert-inhibition time period and it is determined that the predetermined

time interval is exceeded by exceeds an amount of time that has elapsed without

communicating with the person, and inhibiting alert when the current time falls into the alert-

inhibition time period even if it is determined that the predetermined time interval is

exceeded by exceeds an amount of time that has elapsed without communicating with the

person.


Claim 28.       (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the predetermined time interval; and

storing the amount of time that has elapsed since said last-communication time.


Claim 29.       (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said storing said last-communication

time comprises storing a last-communication time for each of a plurality of names in said

phonebook,

wherein said calculating an amount of time comprises calculating an amount of time since said last-communication for each of said plurality of names,

wherein said determining comprises determining whether said amount of time for at least one of said plurality of names exceeds said predetermined time interval, and

wherein said alerting comprising alerting when the predetermined time interval is exceed by said amount of time for at least one of said plurality of names.


Claim 30.       (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said predetermined time interval comprises the same predetermined time interval for at least two of said plurality of names.